CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE ON 21 APRIL 2000 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY BY THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 21 April 2000 in connection with the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Vasily Sidorov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Head of the delegation of the
Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY BY THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On 21 April 2000, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation adopted, by an overwhelming majority, a Federal Act on ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Ratification by the State Duma of CTBT is yet another confirmation of the steady progress made by our country towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, disarmament and strategic stability in the world.

The community of nations has come a long way to reach the comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. The journey from the 1963 Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to CTBT has taken nearly 40 years.

Alongside the recent endorsement of the START-II Treaty by both houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, our country, as a great nuclear Power, by ratifying CTBT is demonstrating its sense of responsibility before the international community and its commitment to fulfilment of its obligations in the area of strengthening strategic stability, arms reduction and disarmament, including in the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). As the NPT Review Conference draws near, particular stress must be laid on the role of CTBT as a vital factor in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We are convinced that both the national interests of the Russian Federation and, to an equal extent, those of humankind as a whole are served by the earliest possible entry into force of CTBT and by making the Treaty universal in its extent. A comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and the signing up of all States with a nuclear-weapon potential to this ban would pose an insurmountable obstacle to any attempts aiming at the proliferation and qualitative improvement of these weapons.

Once again we call on all countries which have yet to sign or to ratify CTBT to do so as soon as possible, so that the goals proclaimed in the Treaty can be realized in the immediate future.

Moscow, 21 April 2000